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## FORD SEEKING NEW SHIPPING BASE

NORFOLK AND PHILADELPHIA ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

## NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS

Will be the Largest Plant in the Ford Organization With the Exception of Detroit.

Washington. — Whether or not the Ford Motor Company makes any further attempts to acquire a portion of Hog Island, depends, it was learned, upon the success of negotiations now in progress with the War Department for the acquisition of the former quartermaster base at Hampton Roads by the city of Norfolk.

Definite information was obtained that the Ford interests have in mind the establishment of a huge assembling and shipping plant along the eastern seaboard for the purpose of developing their foreign trade, especially with South America.

Philadelphia and Norfolk are the two points being considered. At Norfolk there is standing idle today the quartermaster base built by the War Department during the war. One disadvantage is that the Ford interests do not believe that there is enough wharfage space not already in the hands of the navy.

The Norfolk municipal and civic authorities, however, have guaranteed additional wharfage and they are negotiating with the government for the base, and the wharfage to be turned over to the Fords simultaneously.

Partial information as to the use which the Fords intend to put whichever site they decide upon indicates that the plant when completed and equipped will be the largest in the Ford organization with the exception of the main plant at Detroit. It would be constructed to handle all of the export business to South America and to European countries, generally, leaving only a very small portion of the Oriental shipments to be handled in other ways.

## Coal Reports Show Growth.

Cleveland, Ohio. — This country is riding on the crest of a record prosperity wave, it is indicated in reports so far received of coal consumed by industries in January, Mark Kuehn, chairman of the fuel committee of the National Association of Purchasing Agents, announced here recently.

Mr. Kuehn made public the first report of the industrial consumption of coal in October, November and December to be issued by the association, which is making a survey of this consumption. The report shows an increase of 11.43 per cent over the preceding three months.

Coal stocks on hand January 1 were sufficient for 31 days and the production of coal, both hard and soft on that day exceeded consumption by 9,250,000 tons, according to the report.

## Favors Reducing Influx of Aliens.

Washington. — The number of immigrants eligible to admission to the United States under the existing restriction act would be reduced by more than half under a section of a new immigration bill approved by the house immigration committee.

Admission under the proposed act would be limited to two per cent of the number of foreign-born individuals of any nationality resident in the United States as determined by the census of 1890. The present restriction three as determined by the census of 1910.

Members of the committee estimated that under the new restriction clause the total of immigrants entering the United States in any one year would not exceed 168,837. Admissions under the existing law total 358,023 yearly.

One provision of the proposed law, committee members said, probably would exclude every class of alien ineligible to American citizenship, except ministers, teachers, scientists and tourists of those nationalities. This section is understood to be designed to keep out Japanese immigrants.

As is the case with the present temporary statute, the new law would not apply to immigrants coming from Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Central and South America and the adjacent islands provided such immigrants had been residents of these countries for five years before seeking admission.

## FOUR DEATHS IN APARTMENT FIRE

Wichita, Kas. — At least 30 persons were injured, some of them so seriously that they are not expected to live, and four others are believed to be dead in an early morning blaze which wiped out the Getto building, one of Wichita's landmarks.

Flames were first discovered shortly after 3 a. m., and escape by stairways was impossible. Many of the occupants of the burning building slid down ropes to safety.

Thirty-six apartments composed the upper three stories of the building. In these apartments a majority of the dwellers were reported to be aged and some of them feeble. Business firms were located on the main floor.

Four persons believed missing were seen to appear at windows, it is reported, and then disappeared.

## CRAMER GIVES UP OFFICE

FORBES MAY VOLUNTARILY RESIGN OR BE ASKED TO STEP OUT.

Investigation Being Made and Report Will be Turned Over to President Harding.

Washington. — The administration of the veterans' bureau, for months a subject of bitter controversy, is undergoing an investigation which is expected by some well informed officials here to result in important readjustments.

How far the changes to be made will go in the direction of a complete overthrow of bureau personnel and methods of operation remains to be determined by President Harding after the facts have been ascertained and laid before him, but it would cause no surprise among some of his closest advisers if shifts recently made among bureau officials were followed by others of a more far-reaching character.

The inquiry is understood to have been undertaken after many charges of improper administration had reached the White House from the American Legion and other sources, and after members of congress who have looked into bureau affairs had about perfected a plan to ask for a public congressional investigation.

For the present the storm center of the controversy appears to be the legal division of the bureau, which has the final say on all contracts for hospital sites and other contracts involved in the government's program of veteran aid.

Charles R. Cramer, who, as general counsel for the bureau, was head of the legal division, retired from office after he had announced that he would leave it to Colonel Charles R. Forbes, the bureau director, to say whether his services were any longer considered desirable.

Now Colonel Forbes himself is en route to Europe for a "rest" and the administration of the bureau is in other hands. Some of the colonel's friends do not expect him to return to his desk, although administration officials insist that he is in no sense under "suspension," they are unwilling to predict whether he will voluntarily give up his directorship.

In any case, the question of selecting a new director is receiving serious consideration, and it is predicted generally by those who know the inside story of the bureau's affairs that Colonel Thomas W. Miller, now alien property custodian, will be given first choice of the place. Colonel Miller, however, is believed to prefer to stay at his present post, and it is said that the selection may fall ultimately on Franklin D'Olier.

## Profited From Rise in Prices.

Richmond, Va. — Practically every industry and trade in the Fifth Federal Reserve District showed unusual activity during December, in comparison with other months of 1922, and in many respects it was the best business month of the year, according to the monthly statement and summary issued by the federal reserve bank of Richmond.

Textile mills in the district continued to run on practically a full time basis, the report said, and consumed 35 per cent of the cotton used in the United States during the month. Cotton growers profited from the continued rise in prices, it was said, the benefits to North Carolina being especially marked. Tobacco yields were said to be much larger than in the previous year and prices were several cents per pound higher.

Retail trade was excellent during the month, but wholesale business was seasonally dull, the statement showed.

## PEACE CONFERENCE AT LAUSANNE EDNS

DEFINITELY COLLAPSES IN FAILURE TO RESTORE PEACE NEAR EAST.

## PASHA WOULD NOT SIGN

Turk is Immovable When Diplomatic World Tries to Persuade Him to Enter Into the Treaty.

Lausanne. — The European statesmen have failed to restore peace in the near east, and the conference called for this purpose definitely collapsed after the desperate efforts to save it—efforts which were continued up to the very moment Lord Curzon's train left.

Never in the history of political conference were such amazing scenes witnessed as marked the tragic ending of the negotiations, which extended over almost three months. Practically the whole diplomatic world ran after Ismet Pasha, head of the Turkish delegation, trying to induce him to sign the treaty, but Mustapha Kemal's favorite general, with gentle smile, was immovable. He said "no" to all—Americans, British, French and Italians.

The American representatives, Ambassador Child, Joseph C. Crew, and Rear Admiral Bristol, called upon him after the break, in an endeavor to save the conference and Lord Curzon delayed his departure for half an hour in the hope that Ismet Pasha would change his mind, but all in vain.

The conference failed because the Turks refused to accept the clauses concerning the future economic regime in Turkey, and to some extent because they would not accept the allied formula dealing with judicial guarantees for foreigners, which were to replace the existing extraterritorial privileges.

Briefly the Turks wanted to strike from the treaty all cause binding them to recognize contracts and concessions granted by the old Ottoman empire. They maintained that they should be left free to study these questions, and, if necessary, re-open negotiations concerning them with the interested countries and peoples.

They could not, they said, accept the economic burden imposed upon the new Angora government by the old Turkish regime, which had handed out concessions right and left in the form of capitulations.

## Financial Markets are Encouraged.

New York. — With industrial developments still favorable, the financial markets were encouraged by the turn of events in the foreign situation toward the close of the past week.

During the first few days the foreign exchanges showed acute weakness, French francs suffered particularly, and financiers in foreign centers displayed considerable anxiety over the crisis in the Ruhr, the French note to Turkey and the possibility that the British cabinet would not accept the American commission's debt funding terms. Announcement of the British acceptance, however, brought an abrupt change of sentiment, and with more optimistic reports regarding the possibility of a Turkish settlement, resulted in a sharp rally in the exchanges, and in foreign bonds.

In the financial district opinion was unanimous with respect to the constructive aspects of the British agreement. It was pointed out that one of the chief deterrents to the revival of international trade and the restoration of foreign markets has been the war's legacy of huge international obligations. With the debts and German reparations on an uncertain basis, it has been most difficult to foresee the course of the exchanges or to judge the nature of foreign credit risks.

## May Investigate Rubber Production.

Washington. — A proposal that the American government investigate the rubber production possibilities of the Philippines and South America was endorsed publicly by Secretary Hoover after he had conferred with representatives of British rubber producing interests and American consumers.

Secretary Hoover's endorsement of the proposal was continued in a letter to Senator McCormick of Illinois, made public at the commerce department in spite of assurance from the British representatives that the only objective of recent British legislation restricting rubber production in the colonies was to establish a price under which reasonable returns could be secured and the necessary expansion of rubber plantations obtained to keep pace with world demand.

## GREAT DAMAGE RESULTS FROM EARTH TREMOR

Honolulu, T. H. — Between 10 and 12 persons were killed by the tidal waves in Hilo Bay after an earthquake, which was reported to be between 2,000 and 3,000 miles away it was estimated here.

The dead include a child, swept from a sampan, and three Japanese fishermen who were trapped in the engine room of a sampan, which, together with a scow, wrecked the railroad bridge across the Walluku river.

The damage at Hilo, according to a conservative estimate, was \$100,000. Several days will be required to ascertain the number of lives lost and the correct amount of the damage.

The damage at Hilo, according to The Matson Navigation company liner Matsonia touched the mud bottom once while in the grip of the tidal wave, but floated off with the next wave.

## WANTS EFFECTIVE CONTROL

ACTION BY PRESIDENT HARDING IS REQUESTED IN HOUSE RESOLUTION.

Unlawful Use in United States Has Wrought Injury to Health and Morality of People.

Washington. — President Harding would be requested to urge a worldwide limitation of narcotic and habit-forming drug production under a resolution introduced by Chairman Porter of the house foreign affairs committee.

"It is the imperative duty of the United States to protect its people from the persistent ravages of habit-forming drugs," the resolution said, "and effective control can only be had by limiting production."

Asserting that the present condition arising from the use of narcotic drugs is due solely to production many times greater than is necessary, the resolution requests the President to urge upon the governments of Great Britain, Persia and Turkey the immediate necessity of limiting the production of opium and its derivatives, exclusively to the amount actually required for strictly medical and scientific purposes. It also requests him to urge upon the governments of Peru, Bolivia and the Netherlands, the necessity of limiting the production of cocoa leaves and their derivations to the same end.

The resolution did not suggest an international conference, but left to the discretion of the President the method of procedure. Under its terms, however, the President would be requested to report to Congress within six months the result of his efforts.

Unlawful use in the United States of opium and its derivatives, including morphine and heroin, and of cocaine and other preparations made from cocoa leaves, the resolution said, "has wrought irreparable injury to health and morality" and caused "increased and spreading death."

A special committee appointed by the secretary of the treasury in 1919 to investigate the drug traffic, the resolution said, was of the opinion that at that time there were one million addicts in the United States, ranging in age from 12 to 75 years.

Of the annual opium production 1,500 tons, the resolution set forth, "less than 75 tons, according to the best available information, is required for medicinal and scientific purposes." The growth of cocoa leaves also was said to be greatly in excess of that required adequately to provide for the same purposes.

## British Cabinet Agrees to Pay.

Washington. — Advice announcing the acceptance by the British cabinet of the American debt-funding suggestions were received by official Washington with undisguised satisfaction. The feeling prevailed generally that a step toward breaking "the vicious cycle of world debts" had been taken and that the result would be a substantial improvement in world conditions.

On the basis of press dispatches which were supplemented later by a brief cable to the state department from Ambassador Harvey in London members of the American debt funding commission began immediate preparation for presentation of the terms of the tentative settlement to Congress.

Some further negotiations are expected to be necessary, according to Mr. Harvey's cabled report, the British government agreed to the American suggestions "in principle."

## ANOTHER BILL TO AID FARMERS

LENROOT-ANDERSON MEASURE GOES THROUGH WITHOUT NAY VOTE.

## INTEREST RATES ARE FIXED

Provides For a Maximum Credit of \$1,320,000,000 For Agricultural Loans.

Washington. — Consideration of farm credits legislation was concluded by the senate when it passed the Lenroot-Anderson bill. The measure now goes to the house where the Capper co-operative credits bill is under study.

The vote on passage was unanimous, 69 to 0, the measure going through without material amendment. The vote, however, was not made unanimous until Senator Norbeck, of North Dakota, had withdrawn a lone negative vote, explaining that he would be "a good fellow."

The Lenroot-Anderson bill provides for a maximum credit of \$1,320,000 in tax-free debentures, to provide additional loaning capital, would be given, subject to approval of the farm loan board.

The credits department would make loans from six months to three years on agricultural paper to co-operative agricultural associations on staple products of livestock. Interest rates chargeable would not be in excess of 1 1/2 per cent above the land banks' discount rates. The debentures authorized would not bear over six per cent interest, under an amendment by Senator Fletcher, Florida, adopted by the senate after acceptance by Senator Lenroot, Wisconsin, co-author of the bill. An amendment by Senator Harrison, Mississippi, to have direct loans made to individual farmers were defeated.

In passing the Lenroot-Anderson bill the senate rejected the substitute measure of Senator Norbeck for which a strong fight was made with the backing of some agricultural organizations. It provided for centralization of farm credit funds by proposed administration of the war finance corporation.

## Creation of New State Suggested.

Montgomery, Ala. — Creation of a new state from West Florida and Southern Alabama territory is advocated by Senator W. H. Mapoles, of the first senatorial district of the Florida legislature. Senator Mapoles said here that he would present a resolution to the Florida legislature in April asking for the appointment of a commission to meet a like body from Alabama for an investigation of the matter.

In 1921 Senator Mapoles introduced a resolution in the Florida legislature asking it to confer with the State of Alabama relative to the annexing of West Florida to Alabama. The move was defeated. Nine South Alabama counties and nine West Florida counties would be included in the new state, according to Senator Mapoles' plans.

## Wants Reduced Rates.

Washington. — A new demand for reduction of railroad freight rates on agricultural products was made in an address in the senate by Senator Capper, republican, Kansas, chairman of the "farm bloc." Declaring railroad legislation would be the "big question" before the next congress, Senator Capper said that while farm interests were suffering railroads were prospering and that freight rates on agricultural products must be reduced.

## Effort to Help Exchange Market.

Paris. — The government has authorized the resumption of dealings in futures on the foreign exchange market in view of the violent fluctuations of exchange.

The financial interests have been bringing pressure to bear upon the government for some time for the removal of the restrictions. Quotations are now officially authorized on one and three months' futures.

Somewhat limited surreptitious dealings in futures, it is recognized, have been going on. The government's action not only legalizes these but is expected also greatly to increase such dealings, thereby tending to stabilize exchange.

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